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# Executive Summary

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## Section 1

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Kenmore Park, Recreation and  
Open Space Plan

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# Executive Summary

The 2013 Park, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan represents the city's vision, and provides goals and objectives for the development of parks, recreation and open spaces in Kenmore. The PROS plan should be considered dynamic and flexible; accordingly it requires updating at least every five years to ensure it remains current and reflects the community's changing needs. Heavily based upon public input, this PROS plan dreams big and sets lofty, yet achievable goals toward creating more active park spaces and public waterfront access for the community.

Using local guidelines for service levels the city will need approximately 54 additional park acres by the year 2035, plus 2.12 miles of trails and approximately 2,900 lineal feet of waterfront access. However, the plan does not limit the city from pursuing opportunities as they arise. The capital investment is estimated at between \$40 and \$48 million. More accurate costs are not known until a specific project is designed or specific property or properties are identified and appraisals are conducted. Further, the City Council, through its adoption of a budget and six-year capital improvement program (CIP), determines the funding strategy and project priority. Given the magnitude of the potential costs for projects identified in the plan over the next 22 years, the PROS Plan recognizes that its recommendations will compete with other city service priorities. Consequently the city will need to utilize additional funding sources, including reliance on grants, donations, and voter approved capital bond issues, encourage further economic development as well as other methods to finance and accomplish many of these recommended projects.

Given the importance of public access to the city's waterfront and trail connections identified by the public, level-of-service guidelines have been developed for waterfront parks and trails (Linear Parks). While Kenmore enjoys over 8,000 lineal feet of publicly-owned waterfront, a significant portion is largely inaccessible to the public for environmental reasons. Therefore a key strategy of this Plan is to acquire and develop more waterfront that is central to the city



Figure 1.1 Photo: Example "WaterWalk"

waterfront on Lake Washington and the Sammamish River. Water access facilities, including beaches, public moorage and non-motorized boating facilities, need to be a component of this Plan.

and is more suitable for public access. This Plan also recommends developing a "WaterWalk" and waterfront master plan that would include a chain of open spaces, Linear Parks and Waterfront Parks forming a public access corridor along the city's central



Figure 1.2 Photo: Example "WaterWalk"

Since 2003, the city has invested over \$4 million in park-related projects. This investment has distinct benefits to Kenmore as parks have a positive economic value for homes and for attracting business and new residents. (Trust for Public Land, 2006).

Park projects included the renovation of Rhododendron, Linwood, and Log Boom Parks and a partnership with Bastyr University to construct athletic fields. Park properties acquired since 2003 include acquisition and transfer from King County of Squire's Landing Park, and Inglewood Wetlands (3 parcels). These projects were made possible through grants and partnerships with business organizations, government, outside funding agencies, and citizens. This partnership-oriented strategy will need to be continued to achieve the goals and recommendations identified as part of this Plan.

Public involvement was essential to the development of this Plan and included:

- Direction and vision from the City Council and the Planning Commission;
- Information gathered from public workshops, the 2013 Parks Citizen Survey, the 2013 National Citizen Survey, ongoing community on-line surveys, Recreation Provider/User questionnaire, and public hearings;
- Staff input;
- Public hearings and adoption.

Seven significant themes emerged during the public involvement process:

- The desire for more public access along the Kenmore waterfront.
- The desire to have more local opportunities for active recreation, including athletic fields.
- The desire to create a central civic gathering place (town square) in downtown and to enhance the image of the city utilizing unifying themes such as signage, beautification programs, a balanced park system, streetscapes, and public art.
- The desire to create a network of non-motorized connections and linkages to parks, open spaces, public facilities and the Kenmore waterfront.
- The desire to have more local opportunities for passive recreation.
- The desire to enhance the park user experience at public park facilities through the development of support facilities (e.g. restrooms, picnic facilities) and new recreation opportunities (e.g. non-motorized boat launch and kayak facilities).
- Improved and increasing awareness and satisfaction with the Kenmore park system.

This Plan establishes a framework for guiding the future for Kenmore Parks, Recreation and Open Space planning and:

- *inventories and evaluates existing public park, recreation, and open space facilities and programs;*
- *forecasts demand and needs for future park, recreation and open space facilities and programs;*
- *recommends desired level-of-service guidelines;*

- *establishes goals and objectives for park, recreation and open space;*
- *recommends park, recreation and open space capital and operational improvements to meet the projected needs identified;*
- *estimates the value of proposed capital improvements; and,*
- *Proposes an implementation program concurrent with the city's adopted Capital Facilities Plan, including funding opportunities that could be considered to implement the Plan through the year 2035.*

## **Significant Changes Included in this Plan**

The 2013 Plan replaces the 2003 Park Master Plan. The goal of the 2013 Plan was to provide a document that is simple, readable, clear and concise. New park land classifications are used to be consistent with common terms and definitions. The six classifications include:

Neighborhood Parks

Community Parks

Waterfront Parks

Nature Parks

Linear Parks

Open Space

New level-of-service guidelines are also adopted. These guidelines correspond to the six park land classifications. In the majority of cases the level-of-service guidelines are established on a per capita basis (per 1,000 population) creating a target to achieve by the year 2035. This Plan acknowledges new or revised Comprehensive Plan supporting policies adopted in 2006, 2007 and 2009. This Plan recognizes a trend in slower population growth as a result of the great recession. Finally, the Plan updates the land inventory to reflect accurate property acreage, miles or shoreline lineal feet, and focuses on facilities and services located within the city limits.